



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

***Raised Bill No. 387***

LCO No. 1914

\*01914\_\_\_\_\_AGE\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Aging

Introduced by:  
(AGE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF ALZHEIMER'S SPECIAL CARE UNITS OR PROGRAMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-562 of the 2008 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

4 (a) As used in this section and [section] sections 19a-562a of the 2008  
5 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act, and section  
6 3 of this act, "Alzheimer's special care unit or program" means any  
7 nursing facility, residential care home, assisted living facility, adult  
8 congregate living facility, adult day care center, hospice or adult foster  
9 home that locks, secures, segregates or provides a special program or  
10 unit for residents with a diagnosis of probable Alzheimer's disease,  
11 dementia or other similar disorder, in order to prevent or limit access  
12 by a resident outside the designated or separated area, or that  
13 advertises or markets the facility as providing specialized care or  
14 services for persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

15 (b) On and after January 1, 2007, each Alzheimer's special care unit

16 or program shall provide written disclosure to any person who will be  
17 placed in such a unit or program or to that person's legal  
18 representative or other responsible party. Such disclosure shall be  
19 signed by the patient or responsible party and shall explain what  
20 additional care and treatment or specialized program will be provided  
21 in the Alzheimer's special care unit or program that is distinct from the  
22 care and treatment required by applicable licensing rules and  
23 regulations, including, but not limited to:

24 (1) Philosophy. A written statement of the overall philosophy and  
25 mission of the Alzheimer's special care unit or program that reflects  
26 the needs of residents with Alzheimer's disease, dementia or other  
27 similar disorders.

28 (2) Preadmission, admission and discharge. The process and criteria  
29 for placement within or transfer or discharge from the Alzheimer's  
30 special care unit or program.

31 (3) Assessment, care planning and implementation. The process  
32 used for assessing and establishing and implementing the plan of care,  
33 including the method by which the plan of care is modified in  
34 response to changes in condition.

35 (4) Staffing patterns and training ratios. The nature and extent of  
36 staff coverage, including staff to patient ratios and staff training and  
37 continuing education.

38 (5) Physical environment. The physical environment and design  
39 features appropriate to support the functioning of cognitively  
40 impaired adult residents.

41 (6) Residents' activities. The frequency and types of resident  
42 activities and the ratio of residents to recreation staff.

43 (7) Family role in care. The involvement of families and family  
44 support programs.

45 (8) Program costs. The cost of care and any additional fees.

46 (c) Each Alzheimer's special care unit or program shall develop a  
47 standard disclosure form for compliance with subsection (b) of this  
48 section and shall submit such disclosure form to the Department of  
49 Public Health. The department shall annually review and verify the  
50 accuracy of the information provided by Alzheimer's special care units  
51 or programs. Each Alzheimer's special care unit or program shall  
52 update and report to the department any significant change to the  
53 information reported pursuant to subsection (b) of this section not later  
54 than thirty days after such change.

55 (d) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations in  
56 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to carry out the  
57 provisions of this section.

58 Sec. 2. Section 19a-562a of the 2008 supplement to the general  
59 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
60 (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

61 (a) Each Alzheimer's special care unit or program shall annually  
62 provide Alzheimer's and dementia specific training to all licensed and  
63 registered direct care staff and nurse's aides who provide direct patient  
64 care to residents enrolled in the Alzheimer's special care unit or  
65 program. Such requirements shall include, but not be limited to, (1) not  
66 less than eight hours of dementia-specific training, which shall be  
67 completed not later than six months after the date of employment and  
68 not less than [three] eight hours of such training annually thereafter,  
69 and (2) annual training of not less than two hours in pain recognition  
70 and administration of pain management techniques for direct care  
71 staff.

72 (b) Each Alzheimer's special care unit or program shall annually  
73 provide a minimum of one hour of Alzheimer's and dementia specific  
74 training to all unlicensed and unregistered staff, except nurse's aides,  
75 who provide services and care to residents enrolled in the Alzheimer's

76 special care unit or program. For such staff hired on or after October 1,  
77 2007, such training shall be completed not later than six months after  
78 the date of employment.

79 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public  
80 Health shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of  
81 chapter 54 of the general statutes, for facilities licensed pursuant to  
82 chapter 368v of the general statutes that operate an Alzheimer's special  
83 care unit or program, as defined in subsection (a) of section 19a-562 of  
84 the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act.  
85 Such regulations shall address the health, safety and welfare of  
86 residents in such units or programs and shall include (1) staffing  
87 requirements, including staff-to-patient ratios; (2) training  
88 requirements, pursuant to section 19a-562 of the 2008 supplement to  
89 the general statutes, as amended by this act, and any additional  
90 training requirements the commissioner deems necessary; (3) an  
91 annual medical assessment requirement of a resident's dementia care  
92 needs; (4) design and safety measures necessary to ensure the safety of  
93 residents; and (5) any additional requirements the commissioner  
94 deems necessary to ensure such residents' physical, social, emotional,  
95 safety and health care needs are being met.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	19a-562
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	19a-562a
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide greater oversight of Alzheimer's special care units or programs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*